



**Attorney General Steve Carter**  
**Working for Justice in Indiana**



September 7, 2007

Dear Indiana Superintendents and Principals,

The Indiana Attorney General has teamed with the Federal Trade Commission and the Indiana Department of Education, to bring a critical message to the parents of teenagers attending your school. This message is one way we hope to help protect teens from the dangerous consequences of underage drinking. A new national campaign to reduce underage drinking is focusing on the social sources that may provide teens with access to alcohol.

The campaign's centerpiece is [www.dontserveteens.gov](http://www.dontserveteens.gov), a Web site sponsored by a coalition of public and private sector organizations, including the FTC, the nation's consumer protection agency. The message to parents is **"Don't Serve Alcohol to Teens: It's Unsafe, Illegal, and Irresponsible."**

Most teens who drink get alcohol from "social" sources – parents of other teens, older siblings, and other relatives and friends. The legal drinking age in the United States is 21. People who provide alcohol to teens not only undermine the efforts of parents to protect their kids, they also break the law. Studies show that adults strongly support this law – a recent national survey showed that most parents said the drinking age should remain 21 or be raised. But parents need help to make sure their teens don't have access to alcohol.

In efforts of supporting parents who are doing their part to keep teens safe, we are inviting you to share this important message with the parents of your teenage students. We're also encouraging you to distribute the attached document to all parents and request that they sign and return the pledge stating that they will not serve alcohol to teens by October 1, 2007. The distribution of the pledge could be done through the students, at PTO meetings, parent teacher conference meetings, inclusion in a newsletter, or via mail.

Please provide us with feedback regarding your plans to distribute the pledge, and/or the response you receive from the parents. We're hopeful this effort will not only raise awareness, but will empower parents to play an active role in protecting their teens from the dangers of underage drinking.

We appreciate the opportunity to help protect your teenage students by preventing their access to alcohol.

Sincerely,

Stephen Carter  
Indiana Attorney General

Dr. Suellen Reed  
Superintendent of Public Instruction